towards repairs of Unit I of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station during the last three years is about Rs. 100 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

Role of CSIR in upgradation of national technology

2732. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main objectives and functions of the CSIR;

(b) what are the major areas where the CSIR can be made to contribute to the nation's research and development effort both in the public and the private sectors; and

(c) what is the extent to which it has succeeded in its role in upgrading the national technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL). (a) The main objectives and functions of the CSIR are:

(i) Promotion guidance and coordination of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(ii) Collection and dissemination of information on research and industry.

(iii) Furthering Scientific and Industrial Research and exploitation of research results for development of industry.

(iv) Rendering assistance to other institutions conducting research, awarding fellowships and publishing scientific journals.

(b) Examples of major areas where CSIR can contribute to the nation's research and development effort are in petrochemicals, polymers catalysts drugs, bio-technology agro-technologies for aromatic and medicinal plants, electronic process control, mining and metallurgy, composites, aeronautics Oceanography industrial toxicology, standards & meteorology.

(c) It has had significant impact in upgrading technology in areas such as agrotechnologies for aromatic and medicinal plants decentralised post harvest techniques and technologies, leather, appropriate building designs and building materials, mining gadgets petrochemicals, pesticides and drugs.

Study into leaving of science by the students

2733. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given serious thought to the long-range effects of brilliant science students, who are forced to leave the realm of pure science and join professional services;

(b) what is Government's estimate of such a brain drain;

(c) whether Government contemplate to initiate a catalogue with the scientific community to remedy this situation; and

(d) what have been the results of such an effort so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Some of the science and Engineering students are taking jobs in Management, Banking, Administration etc. However, this number is not significant as compared to the total outturn of students in Science & Technology disciplines from the academic institutions of the country.

(c) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, a number of steps have been taken to elevate the status of scentists and technologists and to improve their working conditions with a view to at-

tracting the best talents availabe in the country. Some of these are:

— The scheme of flexible complementing/merit promotion is being introduced in all the scientific departments/organisations.

— Programmes have been launched through which core group of scientists are created in the country with all the necessary modern facilites required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— Special schemes are being implemented to provide assistance to scientists for attending international conferences besides enabling younger scientists to attend specialised training programmes outside India.

— There is provision for Temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the schemes of scientists' Pool.

— A provision has also been made for the creation of super-numerary posts.

— New Scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Bio-technology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources Centre for Development of Telematics have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas. These are likely to provide job opportunities for the scientists, technologists and doctors.

— The financial allocation for Science & Technology activities have been increased substantially over the successive Five Year Plans.

— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

(d) Question does not arise.

Strengthening of Indian Air Force to meet Pak acquisition of French laser-guided bombing system

2734. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's recent move to acquire the Thomson CFS Allis laser-guided bombing fire control system from France for F-16s supplied by US, which is considered to be one of the world's most sophisticated bombing fire-control systems today; and

(b) if so, what Government's reaction thereto, stating the steps contemplated by Government to strentghen the striking power of the Indian Air Force to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appropriate measures are being taken in this regard. It would not be in the public interest, however to disclose further details in this matter.

Detection of Central excise duty of Rs. one crore at Meerut

2735. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the initiation of and Inspector Central Excise Collectorate Meerut, evasion of Central Excise duty of Rs. 1 crore was detected consequent on raid conducted on M/s. Vijay Tractors Corporation and its subsidiary M/s. Vijay Engineering Corporation, Bijnor, for unauthorised manufacture and sale of diesel power generator sets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the case is yet to be decided by the collectorate, Central Excise, Meerut;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for delay of